

# Galela language

**Galela** is the second most populous Papuan language spoken west of New Guinea, with some 80,000 speakers. Its dialects are Kadai (41,000), Morotai (24,000), Kadina (10,000), and Sopi (4,000). Its closest relative is the Loloda language.

Galela is spoken on the eastern side of the northern tip of Halmahera island (in Galela district and in neighbouring villages in Tobelo and Loloda districts), on Morotai Island to the north, on the Bacan and Obi islands to the south of Halmahera, and in scattered settlements along the southwest coast. All are in North Maluku province of Indonesia.

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Galela	
<b>Native to</b>	Indonesia
<b>Region</b>	North Halmahera
<b>Native speakers</b>	(79,000 cited 1990) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	West Papuan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>North Halmahera<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Galela–Tobelo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Galela</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	gbi
<b>Glottolog</b>	gale1259 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/gale1259) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Phonology

The following sound inventory is based on Shelden (1998).<sup>[3]</sup>

### Vowels

Galela has a simple five vowel system: /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/.

### Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>		<u>Palato-alveolar/ Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
			<u>Laminal</u>	<u>Apical</u>			
<u>Stop/ Affricate</u>	voiceless	p	t		ʈʃ	k	
	voiced	b	ɖ	ɗ	ɖʒ	g	
<u>Fricative</u>		ɸ	s				h
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n		ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Flap</u>			r				
<u>Lateral</u>			l				
<u>Semivowel</u>		w			j		

Galela orthography largely follows Indonesian spelling conventions:

- [ɸ] is spelled *f*
- [ʈʃ] is spelled *c*
- [ɖ] is spelled *ɖ*
- [ɗ] is spelled *d*
- [ɖʒ] is spelled *j*
- [ɲ] is spelled *ny*
- [ŋ] is spelled *ng*
- [j] is spelled *y*

## Grammar

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### Pronouns

Galela has two free pronoun sets, and two sets of bound pronominal prefixes.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> The use of the pronominal prefixes is governed by semantic alignment: actor prefixes are used to index the S-argument of active intransitive verbs and the A-argument of transitive verbs, while undergoer prefixes index the S-argument of stative intransitive verbs and the P-argument of transitive verbs.

	<b>independent</b>	<b>possessive</b>	<b>actor</b>	<b>undergoer</b>
<b>1.sg.</b>	ngohi	ai	to-	i-
<b>2.sg.</b>	ngona	ani	no-	ni-
<b>3.sg.masc.</b>	una	awi	wo-	wi-
<b>3.sg.fem.</b>	muna	ami	mo-	mi-
<b>1.pl.incl.</b>	ngone	nanga	po-	na-
<b>1.pl.excl.</b>	ngomi	mia	mi-	mi-
<b>2.pl.</b>	ngini	nia	ni-	ni-
<b>3.pl. human</b>	ona	manga	yo-	ya-
<b>3. non-human</b>	i	ma	i-	ɖa-

## External links

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- Materials on Galela are included in the open access Arthur Capell collection (AC2 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC2>)) held by Paradisec.

## References

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- Galela (<https://www.ethnologue.com/19/language/gbi/>) at *Ethnologue* (19th ed., 2016)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Galela" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gale1259>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- Shelden, Howard (1998). "Transitivity and Galela pronominal reference". *SIL Electronic Working Papers*. 1998-005.
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